

Science Advisory Committee Meeting

February 19, 2020 10:00a – 12:30p

RIDEM Offices – 235 Promenade St., Rm 300, Providence, RI 02908

Agenda

1. Welcome 10:00-10:10a
Sue Kiernan (RIDEM) and Jamie Vaudrey (UConn), SAC Co-Chairs
Sue and Jamie welcome the group, and walk through the agenda.
2. NBEP Staff Rapid Year Kick-Off Topics 10:10-10:20a
Mike Gerel, NBEP Program Director and Courtney Schmidt, NBEP Staff Scientist
Mike will share the SAC's responsibilities taken from NBEP's Guiding Principles work to clarify committee expectations moving forward. Then Courtney will preview a discussion planned for a future meeting about how best to add new committee members, including a request to think about an appropriate process and potential candidates.
Desired SAC Action Today: None.
3. CCMP Preview 10:20-10:50a
Julia Twichell, NBEP GIS/Watershed Specialist
NBEP staff will offer a presentation and lead a short discussion on the next Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (Vision 2032), planned for release in 2022.
Desired SAC Actions Today: Committee members will provide any insights on plan development process and input on ways to ensure a science-based plan.
4. Indicator Updates 10:50-11:20a
Courtney Schmidt, NBEP Staff Scientist
Courtney will describe the indicator(s) to be updated, the timeline for update completion, and when the SAC should expect to provide input.
Desired SAC Action Today: None.
5. Benthic Indicator Update 11:20a-12:20p
Emily Shumchenia, E&C Enviroscapes
Emily will present a review of the benthic habitat indicator from the 2017 Technical Report, an update from data collected summer 2018, and how these data are informing current work in the upper portions of Narragansett Bay: She will have time for questions and discussion from the SAC on the results of the study and the indicator update.
Desired SAC Action Today: The committee will discuss and seek consensus on format and focus of the benthic habitat indicator.
6. Upcoming Opportunities and Compile Action Items 12:20-12:30p
Courtney Schmidt, NBEP Staff Scientist
Courtney will summarize any action items from this meeting.